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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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NRO DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE

MEMORANDUM FOR: Comptroller, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT: Procurement of a Second Apochromatic Lens, Delta III Camera

REFERENCE: A. [REDACTED] 0584 dated 20 October 1972
25X1A2g B. [REDACTED] 1388 dated 31 October 1972
C. [REDACTED] 4246 dated 14 December 1972

25X1A2g 1. It is assumed that the justification for the procurement of a second apochromatic lens for the experimental Delta III camera used in the [REDACTED] Program, as contained in Reference A, was sufficient to establish the requirement; therefore, this memorandum will address itself to the cost elements involved.

25X1A5a1

2. After receipt of a detailed proposal [REDACTED] which resulted in the dispatch of Reference C, a meeting was held at OSA on 30 January 1973 to attempt to determine reasons for the apparent high cost of modification. It was pointed out that the expenditure for design and manufacture of the first lens was \$309,000 (not including flight test). If the objective was only to build another lens to the same specifications, utilizing the one spare set of glass blanks that were procured at the time of original lens buy, the total cost would approximate \$207,000. However, in addition to the lens buy, modification of the scan heads is required for both lenses so that in-flight slit/exposure variation is possible.

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The difference between the \$207,000 and the \$321,591 proposal applies to design, modification, and testing of the scan heads. At this meeting it was determined that the Government would accept the risk involved in using the one set of glass blanks procured under the 25X1A5a2 previous effort. It was further decided that a flight test program as such would not be bought [REDACTED] proposal: 54,535 additional dollars), but that flight test would be conducted at Edwards Air Force Base utilizing Detachment "G" personnel, supported on an on-call basis by engineering talent from Itek as required. Under this condition final evaluation of the take for lens acceptance purposes would be requested from NPIC. It was also proposed by OSA that this new procurement be on a fixed price incentive contract. Contract negotiation is now scheduled for 14 February 1973.

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Regarding question of accounts involved (Reference B), the [REDACTED] Program supports Satellite Film R&D; therefore it is proposed that this modification be funded from the Photo Materials and Processing [REDACTED] account. There are no prior year funds available in this account for application to this modification. There are no current U-2 Program funds available for reprogramming.

4. OSA will continue to press for a fixed price incentive contract; however, whether this effort will be successful is problematical. If unsuccessful, it may be necessary to go to a cost type contract. If a cost type contract is the final result, it will be negotiated at the lowest possible price, and progress will be very closely monitored in an attempt to prevent exceeding the negotiated amount. However, previous experience with this contractor confirms that overruns on cost type contracts are not uncommon. It is, therefore, recommended that \$350,000 be identified for application to this effort. In order for OSA to be in a position to successfully negotiate a contract on 14 February 1973, it is requested that availability of funds be confirmed prior to this date.

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5. This memorandum has been coordinated with and agreed to by the Director, Program D.

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[REDACTED]
Comptroller
Directorate of
Science and Technology

CONCURRENCE:

Director, Program D

Date

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